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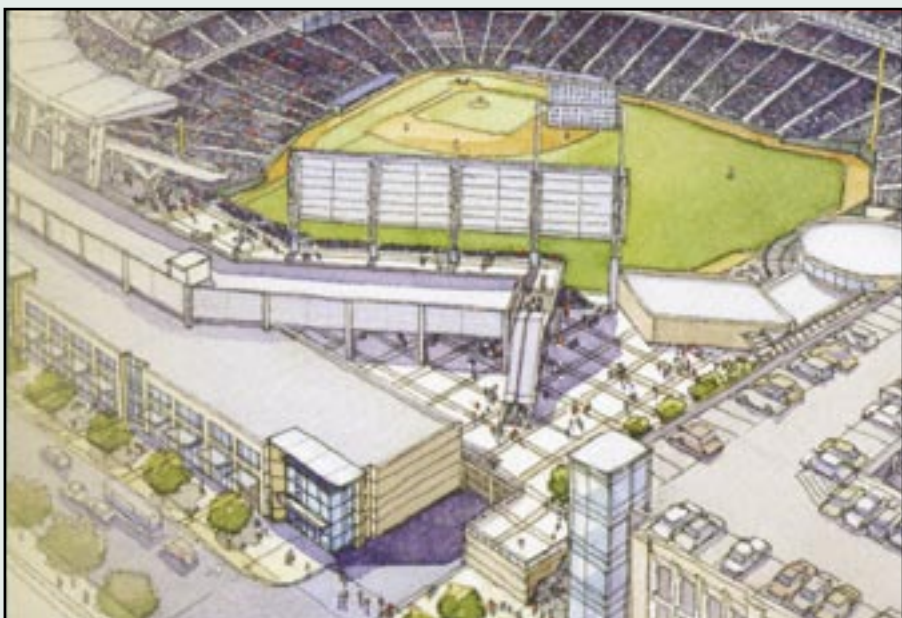
June 2006

Circulation 10,000

FREE!

Published by The Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Inc. —a 501(c) (3) charitable and educational corporation. Contact us at 202-554-8560 or thesouthwester@yahoo.com

PLAY BALL!



Shovels of soil were turned by a dozen dignitaries at the official groundbreaking for the new ballpark being built on the east side of South Capitol St. and planned to open in 2008.

Mayor Anthony Williams, in a media release, called the project “a new future for this part of Southeast Washington.” The glass and metal design “will be a new monument, inspiring pride in our city,” the Mayor declared. “The new stadium will provide unmatched views of the Washington Monument and the Capitol for many ticket-holders.”

A glossy pamphlet distributed at the groundbreaking by Clark/Hunt/Smoot, a “joint venture construction management team” gave a website of www.dcballpark.com. The DC Sports and Entertainment Commission has a website www.dcsec.com.



At the groundbreaking for the new baseball stadium some of the members of the Baseball Advisory Committee from Near SW/SE posed for the camera. Left to right are Andy Litsky, Mary Williams, Ahmed Assalaam, and David Sobelsohn. The others are commissioners on ANC 6D. (Photos by Perry Klein).

Jazz Man Ben Sands Featured Sun., July 16

Jazz sax player, “Southwest’s Own Jazz Man” Benjamin Sands is featured at a benefit jazz concert for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Sun., July 16 at 4 pm on the stage at Westminster Church, 400 I (Eye) St. SW.

Sands performed with the late Lionel Hampton, Andrew White, and still appears with the legendary O’Jays.

For information on the \$50 tickets, call Thelma Jones, 202-488-3746. More info at the May 22 SWNA Meeting.

Proceeds will benefit the assembly and its community outreach programs. A reception follows the performance, which includes music by the Renaissance Youth Ensemble.



Keeping Emergencies From Becoming Disasters

Apartment fires, three day blizzards, bird flu, and evacuation orders are among a dozen emergencies Southwest residents know they could face in their daily life.

Protecting families and neighbors from being devastated by an emergency is a challenge to everyone.

On Mon. night May 22 from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm the monthly SWNA meeting at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 6th & M St. SW, will face the challenge with facts and action.

Your family Go Kit – a box of emergency supplies – flashlight, battery radio, first aid kit, water - for your car trunk and for your home – will be explained. Topics will include “What if the power goes out?”, “What about pets?”, and “What to do until the Fire Dept. arrives?”

The object is to learn how to get help from government agencies and what to do on your own before help arrives – or if help never arrives.

The public schools have their plans for emergencies. (See www.k12.dc.us) The American Red Cross has training and materials and actively recruits volunteers for emergencies. (See www.redcross.org). Mayor Williams has asked residents to visit the Emergency Information Center to sign up to receive text alert messages

on your cell phone, pager, Blackberry or other text capable devices.

A local resource to help neighborhoods think about planning for emergencies is the “Community Emergency Response Team.” Its website is www.citizencorps.gov. SWNA has asked this latter group to attend our meeting to start a discussion of what Southwest residents need to know and actions we could take to be as safe as possible..

Remember, Mon. May 22, 7:30 pm at St. Augustine’s Church, 6th and M St. S.W.

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Yard Sales!

CPII, CPIV Yard Sale

SAT, June 10, CP II and CP IV Community Annual Yard Sale
across from the Third and G. Streets SW Circle, 10am to 3 pm
(rain date SUN, Jun 11, same time).
Contact: Lorrie Fulton, 484-3938

Riverside Sale

GO ON A TREASURE HUNT
Riverside Condominium Yard Sale
Saturday, June 3, 2006
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Home furnishings, clothes, shoes, jewelry, books & more.
Prizes, food, entertainment

SWEET Yard Sale

NEW DATE
SouthWest Education Excellence Team Announces
the 7th Annual YARD SALE
DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2006
TIME: 8:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
PLACE: 4TH STREET SW
(BETWEEN G & I STREETS)
Raindate: Sunday, June 11
Reserve your space for only \$25
Make your tax deductible donation payable to SWEET
Proceeds benefit the students of Amidon Elementary
For more information contact:
Paula Young Shelton 202-554-0079 pshelton@gds.org
610 4th Place SW Washington, DC 20024
Monica Evans 202-488-5378 missmonicae@aol.com
Bring a table and Earn money selling your old treasures!

Westminster Yard Sale

9 am – 2 pm Sat. June 17 – 400 I (Eye) St. SW

Christ Methodist Sale

Sat. June 17, 9 am – 2 pm – On I (Eye) St. SW at 4th St. SW

Southwest Community Calendar

May 21 to June 30, 2006

SUN. MAY 21 Walking Tour by Larry Rosen, former SW resident. Start at Waterside Mall, 4th & M SW, 2 pm-

MON. MAY 22- SWNA Public Meeting, St Augustine's Episcopal Church, 6th & M St. SW, 7:30 pm.

THURS. MAY 25 NARFE luncheon meeting, SW Library, K St. SW & Wesley Pl 12:30 pm

MON. MAY 29 Memorial Day Holiday observed

WED. MAY 31 At Large Council and Council Chair forum, Jefferson Jr. High, 7th & H St. SW, 7 pm

SAT. JUNE 3 Yard Sale, Riverside, 4th near P SW 9 am – 2 pm

THURS. JUNE 8 Water rate Hearing, 777 N Capitol St. NE, 6 pm

FRI. JUNE 9 Police Awards, Navy Yard 6th & M SE, 6:30 pm

SAT. JUNE 10 Yard Sales at 4th & I to G SW, and G & 3rd St SW 8-3 and 10-3 respectively

WED. JUNE 14 Last day of School, till noon

SAT. JUNE 17 Yard Sale at Westminster church and at Christ United Methodist, both on I St. SW near 4th St.

THURS. JUNE 29 AARP Boat ride (202) 484-9174

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

KOMEN TOASTMASTERS – First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS – Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm

SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS – Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 488 – noon

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTORS Club – First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye) St. S.W., 7 pm 202-291-6229

S.W. KIWANIS – First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS – Every Wed. GSA Bldg – 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

LABYRINTH WALK – First & Third Wed., Westminster Church, 4th & I St., SW, 7 pm

Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed., June 7.

May is Skin Cancer Prevention Month

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Email your stories and ads by **Wed., June 7** to The Southwester at thesouthwester@yahoo.com.
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1/16 page	\$35	1/8 page	\$70
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Full page	\$550		

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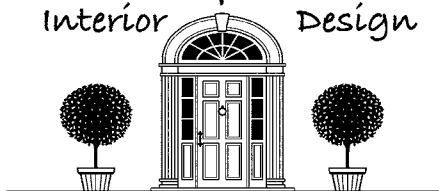
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3 mo' divas! - 2006 Summer Engagement at Arena Stage



(Release from Arena Stage)

Limited summer engagement! a theatrically staged concert created/directed/choreographed by Marion J. Caffey musical supervision/arrangements/orchestrations by Joseph Joubert July 12 through August 13, 2006 in the Kreeger

From the director of Arena Stage's 2005 summer revival of Crowns and creator of the international sensation Three Mo' Tenors comes a new musical celebration with class, sass and feminine style. This new version features three musical stars singing some of the most inspiring and challenging music ever written for the female voice.

Supported by six musicians, 3 Mo' Divas!, a 2004 Los Angeles Times' Critics Choice, spans eight musical forms and features 400 years of music in a single evening — everything a music lover could want, from Bach to Cole Porter, Gershwin to Cab Calloway, Ellington to The Supremes.



Play from Local Playwright

By Joyce Bouvier

M.A. Robinson, an Arena Stage arts administrator, recently treated River Park residents to an early view of her play, "Driving Down the Price of Honey."

Set in the 70s in Georgia, where Ms. Robinson graduated from Valdosta State University with a B.F.A. in theater, the play explores the complex emotions and relationships of five characters, two married couples and their gossip neighbor.



Martin Damien Wilkins directed the reading and narrated the stage directions, and the roles were read by Cynthia L. Webb-Manly, Marshall N. Opie, Henri Edmonds, Karen L. B. Evans, and André-Manly.

Otis Ramsey-Zoe of Centerstage was the dramaturg and conducted a "talk back," which elicited enthusiastic and insightful comments from the audience. One hopes that Ms. Robinson (and the public) will soon see a staged production of her very moving and thought-provoking work.

BRIEFLY IN THE NEWS . . .

AARP Schedule

55 Live Workshop (driving refresher) Mon. May 30
(info Loretta Clarke 202-554-7775)
Boat Ride Thurs. June 29
(info Ray Williams, Pres., 202-484-9174)

NARFE Schedule

National Active & Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

The next SW Chapter meeting is May 25, 2006 @ 12:30 pm
SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW.

Our chapter will break for the summer.
No meeting for the months of June, July, and August.

September 28, 2006 will be our next meeting @ 12:00 pm

Police Awards Banquet June 9

Fri. June 9 6:30, Dinner 7:30 Washington Navy Yard Conference Center (entrance 6th and M St. SE) Your name will be on a list. Picture ID required. \$35 purchase by June 5. Checks to "MPD 1D CAC". First District Front Desk 698-0555. Sub-station front desk 698-0068. Mail check to First District Citizen Advisory Council, 415 4th St SW, Washington DC 20024

Wed. June 14 Last Day of School

Public Schools in DC will have a half day on Wed. June 14. It will be the last day of school for students and faculty.

At Large Council Forum May 31

On Wednesday, May 31 at Jefferson Jr. High School at 7th and H St. SW Democratic candidates for Council Chair and Council at Large will speak and be questioned at a public forum. Doors open at 7 pm for a brief meeting of Ward 6 Democrats.

Forum begins at 7:30 pm

Participants: Council members Vincent Gray & Kathy Patterson candidates for DC Council Chair and A. Scott Bolden & Council member Phil Mendelson candidates for DC Council-At-Large

Moderator: Mark Plotkin

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Recipients Aim For The Top

By Barbara Murray, SWNA Scholarship Committee chair

Among the good news from former scholarship recipients across the country, comes information that the community can take pride in two "newly minted" engineering professors, and one student pursuing a Ph.D. in history.

Dr. Ali Gordon is in his first year of being an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the Department of Mechanical, Materials, and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Central Florida. He received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Morehouse, a B.S., M.S. and Ph.D at Georgia Tech. His current research involves characterizing behavior of engineering materials through experiments and constitutive modeling. Dr. Gordon is happily married with two children and lives in Orlando, Florida. His mother still lives in Southwest.

Dr. Gregory Triplett is in his second year as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Missouri at Columbia. He received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and M.S. from Florida State University. He



Dr. Ali Gordon

completed his Ph.D. as a member of the Intelligent Semiconductor Manufacturing Group at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Triplett's research is geared towards the development of next generation solid-state devices, nanotechnology, semiconductor process control, and neural networks applications.

Shantella Sherman is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University



Dr. Gregory Triplett

of Nebraska at Lincoln. She is a history major working on a concentration in African-American and Haitian history during the Gilded Age. Her minor is archeology. Shantella still loves to write and hopes to complete her first novel before the end of the year. And, yes she's still a Tina Turner fan, but her new turn-on is country music.

Camp Arena Stage - Limited Space Available

(Release from Arena Stage)

July 10 through August 4 young people ages 8-15 on the campus of Georgetown Visitation.

Limited space available. Explore, discover and create an unforgettable summer at Camp Arena Stage, Arena's summer camp dedicated to the personal and creative growth of its campers by providing a summer of exciting arts experiences in theater, dance music, media and visual arts.



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Huge Tunnels for Storage After Rains



Rendering of the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant with several egg-shaped digesters.

Soil samples will be collected this summer along the routes of eight miles of new gigantic sewer pipes planned for D.C. Holes will be drilled 150 to 250 feet deep on routes in SE DC to prepare for digging storage tunnels as large as Metro rail tunnels to hold back wastewater that presently overflows directly into the Potomac River and its tributaries during heavy rainstorms. Actual construction of the 8 miles of tunnels is 6 years off.

Washington DC and many large

cities in the US have sewer lines that combine stormwater runoff and wastewater from homes and businesses. Rather than trying to construct new separate lines for wastewater and stormwater runoff, the 8 miles of storage tunnels will hold back the excess water until it can be safely directed to the Blue Plains treatment plant before entering the Potomac River. This and other construction planned by WASA will reduce the present 3 billion gallons of annual overflow into the Potomac by 96%.

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Hearing On Water Rate Increase June 8

Hearings will be held by the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority Board at 6pm on Thurs. June 8, at 777 North Capitol St. NE for public comment on a proposed 7% increase in water rates to start paying for the \$2.2 billion cost of a plan for a tunnel project and other construction projects needed. Typical residential customers will see their \$46.41 monthly water bill rise \$3 to \$49.41 if the increase is approved. The

Federal Government is being asked for increased contributions for the construction projects. Congress has paid \$87 million to date.

This information was given at a public meeting at the Southwest Branch Library.

The web site for the Water Board is www.dcwasa.com. The Public Affairs office is 202-787-2200.

Ex-Mall Tenants at New Addresses

By Thelma Jones

The Southwester recently checked in with two small businesses that relocated from Waterside Mall. Finding a convenient and reasonable location was challenging for both Ann's "Beauty Supply & Wigs Co." and Kim's Custom Tailor, longtime mall businesses with an excellent customer base.

"I was turned down three times before I finally got this location at 125 L St. SE which had not been in use for almost 20 years," said Ann's owner Sok Reed. "At first business was horrible and there were one or two days when no one came to my store. Now, business is much better and almost back to half the sales volume prior to moving."

Kim's Custom Tailor experienced similar challenges. "When I first moved here at 1104 – 10th St. SE, I didn't have to open my regular hours because no one really visited before noon," said owner

Kwang Kim. "I lost a lot of my customers because they didn't know about my new location or it wasn't as convenient as being in the Mall or taking the subway. I was very concerned because it was really tough at first."

"Now," he said, "it's much better and many of my old customers are coming back. I've even got some new customers from the Navy Yard."

Even though the two businesses have relocated, both kept their same telephone numbers – Ann's Beauty Supply (202-554-5588) and Kim's Custom Tailor (202-554-1201).

With developments around the Navy Yard and potentially hundreds of new customers, both Sok and Kim are optimistic and can see a light at the end of the tunnel. They are also still adjusting to the change and working on rebuilding their existing and new customer base. In a few months business will be back to normal with good growth prospects.

Town Center

Congratulations to the residents of the Town Center Apartments in Southwest, whose Tenant Association and developer partnership closed on the purchase from the RLARC (an NCRC subsidiary) land rights of their building April 26!



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Teenagers Identified in ANC Assault Case

[Ed. Note. The following are excerpts quoted from a release from David Sobelsohn. The Southwester has deleted the names of the juveniles.]

"FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. -FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: David Sobelsohn (202-484-8303).

"WASHINGTON, DC--On March 2, on his way to a community meeting, Southwest DC Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner David Sobelsohn was beaten unconscious and robbed. With a severe concussion and a broken cheek, his face crisscrossed by stitches, Sobelsohn spent three days in Washington Hospital Center. The police have arrested two suspects, both 14 years old. Both already have police records.

"Juvenile proceedings are confidential. But a defense attorney has revealed the name of her teenage client: [DELETED] The revelation came in a subpoena to Commissioner Sobelsohn. The subpoena identifies a second defendant only as [DELETED].

"[DELETED] and [DELETED] face charges of aggravated assault. Aggravated assault requires "serious bodily injury."

"The subpoena does not reveal [DELETED]'s home address. But Sobelsohn finds comfort in the telephone book: the most recent DC directory does not include a [DELETED] in the Commissioner's neighborhood. "It reassures me to think my assailants don't live here but instead invaded my neighborhood from outside," said Sobelsohn. "I have always found my community's kids to be responsible, even admirable." As an example, he cited Anthony Bowen Elementary School students who made a presentation, at his May 8 ANC meeting, about their proposal to designate the cherry as Washington, DC's official fruit. "Marcus and Eric provide role models for kids all over the city," said Sobelsohn. "I am proud they live in my neighborhood. I wish Marcus and Eric had been there March 2, instead of [DELETED] and [DELETED]. I would have invited them to my meeting."

Church News

St. Augustine Celebrates May 28

By Elaine Graves

On May 28 St. Augustine Episcopal Church at 10 a.m. marks both the Feast Day of St. Augustine of Canterbury, the church's patron saint, and the 40th anniversary of ministry in its present building. The congregation celebrated its first Eucharist on Palm Sunday in 1966.

After the service, all are invited to a potluck lunch.

Christ United Methodist Church:

May 20: Fellowship Breakfast from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.; 2 p.m., CROP walk

Saturday, June 17: Flea Market beginning at 9 a.m.

Every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.: Bible Study.

"Da Vinci Code" At Westminster

What is fact and what is fiction in the book and movie, The Da Vinci Code? Public forum, 10 am-1 pm Sat. June 24. Call 202-484-7700 for information.

Second Union

Coming in June the Second Union Baptist Church will be adding an 8:00 AM Worship Service

We want you to come out and join us!

St. Dominic

Saint Dominic Catholic Church (6th & E St. SW - L'Enfant Plaza) will host a Choral Concert of Sacred Music on Sunday 11 June 2006 starting at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature the vocal artistry and prayer of the 80+ voice choir of St. Bernadette Catholic Church (Springfield VA), accompanied by the historic Roosevelt Organ, piano, and woodwinds. The

concert will include both classical and contemporary sacred music. There is no charge for admission to the concert. The St. Bernadette Choir will also serve as music ministers at the 5:15 p.m. Celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (Trinity Sunday). For more information, please contact St. Dominic's via e-mail: music@st-dominic-church.org

River Park Friends Annual Meeting

By Thelma D. Jones

A \$3,000 challenge grant makes NOW the time to donate to River Park Friends. At its recent annual meeting, River Park Friends (RPF) grantee representatives in attendance were Dale MacIver, The Southwester; Emma Ward, EmmaUS Learning Center; Mattison Boyer, Living Classrooms; Carmelita Winters, South Washington/West of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative; Anita Maynard-Losh and Ashley Forman, Arena Stage; Erica Drucker, Our Place DC; and Barbara Murray, SW Neighborhood Assembly Scholarship Fund.

Grantees told stories and shared program results and outcomes while expressing their appreciation to RPF for helping fund their activities

Since its inception in 1998, RPF has awarded over \$40,000 to 20 Southwest

programs and activities. In 2005, RPF awarded over \$7,000 to eight Southwest programs. With grant sizes ranging from \$300-\$1600, RPF prides itself in keeping administrative costs at a minimum with 96% of its funds raised going directly to programs.

Unlike other organizations, RPF does not conduct programs but provides funds to support ongoing activities in Southwest. "It's the only organization that is devoted to the needs of grassroots organizations in Southwest," said Keith Melder, historian, RPF board member, and long-time Southwest resident.

Contributions can be made payable to River Park Friends (a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization) and sent to Dr. Coralie Farlee, 389 O Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024. For more information on RPF, call (202) 554-4407 or visit www.swdc.org.



Some board members at Friends of River Park, left to right: Thelma Jones, C.W. Hargrave and Coralee Farley.

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The Men's Titanic Society

By Perry Klein

There's a little-known, quiet ceremony held each year at the Titanic Memorial, right here in Southwest Washington.

The Titanic Memorial, for those who may not know about it, is the statue located at the Fort McNair end of the walk along the Washington Channel, the pink granite figure with outstretched arms. At its base is an inscription that reads, To the brave men who perished in the wreck of the Titanic April 15,

1912. They gave their lives that women and children might be saved ... Erected by the Women of America. It was created by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney (founder of the Whitney Museum in New York) in 1929, and was unveiled by President and Mrs. Taft in 1931, though

not at its present location in Southwest D.C.

Shortly after midnight each April 14/15, a group of tuxedo-clad men arrive at the Memorial in a limousine-bus following a commemorative dinner at The Watergate, a dinner of the type one might have had on the Titanic's fateful voyage. These are the members of the Men's Titanic Society, and they have been coming here every year for the past 27 years in memory of the anniversary of the tragic sinking of the great ocean liner

Titanic in 1912.

After arriving at the Memorial, a bell rings, champagne is poured, and the men assemble on the steps of the memorial for a series of toasts. This year, I was able to witness the ceremony along with Carolyn Crouch of Washington Walks.



The wreath reads "WE SHALL NEVER FORGET" Men's Titanic Society 2006"



Meeting at the Titanic Memorial on the SW waterfront off P St. SW

There were seventeen members, and one by one, each gave an individual toast to the brave men of the Titanic. This was followed by the laying of a wreath with the inscription, We shall never forget... Men's Titanic Society 2006.

I was able to take some photos, and also was privileged to talk afterwards with the Society's founder and President, Jim Silman, a Washington film-

maker, now in his late seventies. He told me the group would welcome an audience if others of the community would like to witness the ceremony in the future. So mark your calendars next year for half-past midnight next April 14/15, rain or shine, and come experience this unique event on the Waterfront in our Southwest neighborhood.

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